

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[TM-98-00-5]

Notice of Meeting of the National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announces a forthcoming meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

DATES: July 21, 1998, at 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; July 22, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and July 23, 1998, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the NOSB.

PLACE: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Jefferson Auditorium (July 21, 1998) and Room 3501 South Building (July 22-23, 1998), Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 690-3655.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Jones, Program Manager, Room 2510 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, AMS, Transportation and Marketing, National Organic Program Staff, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Phone (202) 720-3252.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2119 (7 U.S.C. 6518) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. Section 6501 *et seq.*) requires the establishment of NOSB. The purpose of NOSB is to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of OFPA. NOSB met for the first time in Washington, D.C., in March 1992 and currently has six committees working on various aspects of the program. The committees are:

Crops Standards; Processing, Labeling and Packaging; Livestock Standards; Accreditation; Materials; and International Issues. In August 1994, NOSB provided its initial recommendations for the National Organic Program (NOP) to the Secretary of Agriculture and since that time has submitted 30 addenda to the recommendations and reviewed more than 170 substances for inclusion on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The last meeting of NOSB was held in March 1998, in Ontario, California. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its proposed rule for NOP in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 65849) on December 16, 1997. An extension of the comment period on the proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 6498-6499) on February 9, 1998. The comment period was extended until April 30, 1998.

PURPOSE AND AGENDA: The main purposes of this meeting are to review committee reports; continue dialog on unresolved issues from the March 1998 meeting, including fees, peer review panels, treated seeds, and aquaculture; elect new officers; appoint committee chairpersons; and plan future activities of the Board.

A final agenda for this meeting will be available on July 7, 1998. Persons requesting copies of the final agenda should contact Karen Thomas at the above address or phone (202) 690-3655.

TYPE OF MEETING: All meetings will be open to the public. NOSB has scheduled time for public input on July 21, 1998, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and continuing until 5:00 p.m. Individuals and organizations wishing to make an oral presentation at the meeting on any organic issue should forward the request to Ms. Thomas at the above address or by FAX to (202) 205-7808 by July 15, 1998, in order to be scheduled. While persons wishing to make a presentation may sign up at the door, advance registration will ensure an opportunity to speak during the allotted time period and will help NOSB better manage the meeting and accomplish its agenda. Individuals or organizations will be given approximately 5 minutes to orally present their views. All persons making an oral presentation are requested also to provide their comments in writing, if possible. Written submissions may of course expand on or supplement the

oral presentation with additional material. Attendees who do not wish to make an oral presentation are invited to submit written comments to NOSB at the meeting. All persons submitting written comments should provide 20 copies to NOSB.

Dated: July 7, 1998.

Eileen S. Stommes,

Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing.

[FR Doc. 98-18540 Filed 7-8-98; 11:55 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Sierra Nevada Conservation Planning for National Forests in California

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Announcing the beginning of a planning process that will: (1) Examine existing management direction for the National Forests in the Sierra Nevada in light of new scientific information, and (2) develop new management direction where necessary, supported by an environmental impact statement to be completed by July 31, 1999. After an initial public involvement period, the Agency will amend this notice with a Notice of Intent that will more fully describe an Agency proposed action.

SUMMARY: The USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, is beginning a planning process to ensure that new scientific information is adequately considered in management direction contained in the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide and the ten Forest Plans for the National Forests in the Sierra Nevada. The Pacific Southwest Regional Forester, in consultation with the Director of the Pacific Southwest Research Station, anticipates (1) having a completed and peer reviewed report that synthesizes new scientific information of rangewide urgency to the National Forests in the Sierra Nevada by late-July, 1998; (2) having completed an examination of current management direction in light of the new scientific information and the identification of weaknesses in current management direction along with possible changes that could be made in management direction to rectify those weaknesses by the end of July, 1998; (3) providing a 60-

day opportunity for the public to comment on the new scientific information, the identified weaknesses in current management direction, and possible changes that could be made in management direction to rectify those weaknesses by mid-October, 1998; and (4) by October 31, 1998, issue a Notice of Intent, which will amend this Notice, to fully articulate the Agency's proposed action to change management direction in the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide and the Forest Plans for the ten National Forests in the Sierra Nevada. Publication of the Notice of Intent will initiate a 60-day public comment period wherein the public will be asked to provide any additional information they feel the Forest Service may still not have at that time, and to submit any issues regarding potential effects of the proposed action. More specific information regarding the proposal, decision-making process, and schedule for completion will be included in the Notice of Intent.

ADDRESS: Send written comments to Dick Andrews, Regional Environmental Coordinator, Ecosystem Planning, Room 859A, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dick Andrews, Regional Environmental Coordinator, Ecosystem Planning, (415) 705-2557.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This announcement is being published by the Forest Service in an effort to ensure an open and inclusive public process is employed in gathering information that may be used to formulate a proposed action and articulate the purpose and need for amending the management direction specified in the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide and the Forest Plans for the Eldorado, Inyo, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Sequoia, Sierra, Stanislaus, and Tahoe National Forests and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

In preparation for this planning process, the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station is reviewing recently developed scientific information relevant to the Sierra Nevada. A report summarizing this work is currently in draft and may be viewed at the Research Station's internet website, www.psw.fs.fed.us/sierra/. By mid-July additional information about the planning process and opportunities for public involvement will be available through the Pacific Southwest Region's internet website, www.r5.fs.fed.us/.

Date: July 6, 1998.

G. Lynn Sprague,

Regional Forester.

[FR Doc. 98-18387 Filed 7-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, May 16, 1998, in Toppenish, Washington, at the Yakama Indian Nation Cultural Center (Highway 97 and Buster Road) in the 14 Tribes Room. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on (1) Water Quality Issues, (2) Tribal Hunting and Wildlife Concerns, (3) Huckleberry and other Special Forest Product concerns, (4) Timber Management by the Yakama Nation during the listing of the Spotted Owl, and (5) Public Open Forum. All Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The "open forum" provides opportunity for the public to bring issues, concerns, and discussion topics to the Advisory Committee. The "open forum" is scheduled as part of agenda item (5) for this meeting. Interested speakers will need to register prior to the open forum period. The committee welcomes the public's written comments on committee business at any time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Linda Turner, Public Affairs Specialist, at (360) 891-5195, or write Forest Headquarters Office, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, 10600 NE. 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682.

Dated: July 2, 1998.

Larry I. Seekins,

Deputy Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 98-18311 Filed 7-9-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection for the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Forest Service announces its intent to seek extension of the approval of an existing information collection authorized under Office of Management and Budget number 0596-0120. Several Forest Service information collection forms are approved under this authorization number: SIP 36, Assignment of Payment; SIP 211, Power of Attorney; SIP 211-1, Power of Attorney for Husband and Wife; and SIP 502, Payment Limitation Review. Non-industrial private forest owners complete these forms to participate in the Forest Service State and Private Forestry Stewardship Incentive Program.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing on or before September 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to: Stewardship Coordinator, Cooperative Forestry Staff, mail stop 1123, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Stein, Cooperative Forestry Staff, at (202) 205-0837.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Forest Service is seeking extension of the approval of an existing information collection authorized under Office of Management and Budget number 0596-0120. Several Forest Service information collection forms are approved under this authorization number: SIP 36, Assignment of Payment; SIP 211, Power of Attorney; SIP 211-1, Power of Attorney for Husband and Wife; and SIP 502, Payment Limitation Review. An additional form, AD-245, SIP Request for Cost-Shares, formerly named SIP 245, SIP Request for Cost-Shares, also must be completed by non-industrial private forest owners. A separate request for extension of approval of form AD-245 is being processed by the Farm Service Agency departmental request for extensions of information collections authorized under Office of Management and Budget approval number 0560-0082. The Forest Service and the Farm Service Agency cooperatively administer the Forest Service State and Private Forestry Stewardship Incentive Program.

Non-industrial private forest owners complete these forms to participate in the Forest Service State and Private Forestry Stewardship Incentive Program. The collected information identifies 1) the Stewardship Incentive Program assignment of payment, 2) Internal Revenue Service income